

*S*pector*D*ance

DANCE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**CHOREOGRAPHERS'
SHOWCASE**

Saturday October 7, 2023

Sunday October 8, 2023

2 to 4 pm

Outdoor Forest Theater

Carmel-by-the Sea, California

Introduction

Welcome to The Choreographers' Showcase: "Dance That Makes A Difference." The showcase is a forum to present original, cutting-edge works by dancemakers from the state, nation and globe, and to provide opportunities for local audiences to see new dance being created right now!

We are thrilled to be presenting the showcase at the historic, Outdoor Forest Theater. Built in 1910, nestled in the woods with the stage framed by towering pines, this inspiring amphitheater, provides a majestic backdrop for performers and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all audiences. We are excited to continue our theme of "Dance That Makes A Difference" at this new, magical setting.

In alignment with our mission, our showcase presents dance works that focus on the power of dance to inform, promote dialogue, and be a galvanizing vehicle for change. The goal of the Choreographers' Showcase is to bring diverse, experimental, and cutting-edge dance experiences for all audiences in our community. We also hope to inspire everyone to use their own creative voices to address pressing social issues and to utilize the arts to make a positive impact.

This year, we are proud to offer a Free Performance of the Choreographers' Showcase for local school-age youth. We are committed to bringing dance performances to youth in our community who otherwise might not have this kind of exposure. We are also offering all dancers in our local community the opportunity to take a Modern Dance Class with world-renowned, guest choreographer Allen Xing from Baltimore on Sunday, October 8, at 11:30 am.

Check out our [Choreographers' Showcase Auction](#). Get a gift for yourself or someone special and support the Choreographers' Showcase at the same time.

Please share your experience today, by filling out the [Showcase Survey](#). This helps us to get to know you and to plan for future programs.

Stay in touch through www.spectordance.org. Sign up for our Newsletter, and like us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#).

Thank you for attending this performance. Enjoy the show.

Fran Spector Atkins

Fran Spector Atkins
Artistic Director and Founder of the Choreographers' Showcase

Online Auction in Support of the Choreographers' Showcase

**Gift Certificates, Personal Care Services,
Tickets, Memberships & More!**

<https://givebutter.com/c/dancenow/auction>

All items are donated, so EVERY auction dollar contributes directly to support our upcoming showcase.

**Our auction is LIVE online from NOW until October 11, 2023.
Please bid today before your favorite item is gone!**

Your support will make our Choreographers' Showcase the best possible experience for our local community and the visiting artists. Check out our auction offerings and snag one of our amazing items. Find a great gift for a special someone for the holidays, or treat yourself and support the Choreographers' Showcase at the same time!

Program

Wildfires

Choreographed by Fran Spector Atkins
Assistant to the Artistic Director: Charlotte Katherine Smith
Interviewee Tom Little Bear Nason
Media Integration William Roden New Dawn Studios
Music Composition by Dr. Chad Hamill/čnaq'ymi
Performed by Stephanie Mazrahi, Charlotte Katherine Smith, Phillip Wainwright

"Wildfires" is a new performance project that highlights Indigenous knowledge about the increasing severity and prevalence of wildfires. Sourced from Indigenous culture-bearers, "Wildfires" is based on a belief that Indigenous ways of knowing are key to the future of our forests and to the eco-crisis we all face.

FORWARD, Always

Choreography by Tsiambwom M. Akuchu
Music: "Sinnerman" by Nina Simone
Costume by Tsiambwom Akuchu
Performed by Tsiambwom Akuchu

'FORWARD, Always' thinks about the spirit of persistence. I invite the audience to think about history and progress, labor and effort; the pace of radical change; and whose bodies are on the line when it comes to achieving a progressive future. 'FORWARD, Always' is about culture and American history; past, present, its developing future, and our place and responsibility on that timeline.

still here

Choreography by Stephanie Mizrahi
Music: "taiyla" by vowel., "Cliff Jump" & "Unconscious" by METAHESH, "mirage" by théos, Antent
Performed by Lydia McDonald and Abigail Chuah

As a queer woman, most of the representation I see on stage or in the media centers around coming out, dealing with prejudice, or finding oneself. While these stories are important, we also need to see queer people past the point of self-acceptance, simply living their lives. "still here" explores two women in love who have distinctly different emotional backgrounds. Through the inevitable highs and lows of the relationship, the trust between them grows.

Quantum

Choreography by Meredith Ventura
Music: Consolation No. 3 by Franz Liszt and Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2 by Frédéric Chopin
Costumes by Meredith Ventura
Performed by Meredith Ventura, Rachyl Pines, Bianca Salazar, Arianna Hartanov, Ashley Kohler, Monique Nadeau

This work deals directly with the complexities of the "crisis of appearance" of female-identifying bodies onstage by scrutinizing what lies beneath the surface, emphasizing the power of subtle shifts, and revealing the concealed nature of many aspects of female labor, which ultimately manifest in conspicuous transformations. Physically, Quantum uses changes in gestures, shapes, or efforts to mirror how an individual's solitary action can snowball into collective movement.

"...and still, we must..."

Choreography by danah bella

Music by Salvador Barajas

Performed by Rebecca Lee

Acknowledgement and understanding of colonization, including the erasure and suppression of national history and cultural identity, can heal and reclaim that which is lost. "...and still, we must..." is a creative exploration that reflects upon and expresses the effects of this loss of identity and the subsequent search for roots and belonging.

Duplicity

Choreography by Allen Chunhui Xing

Music by Svyatoslav Melik

Performed by Alison Bartels, Allen Chunhui Xing, Carolyn Tai,

Facundo Eduardo Idio, Jovannie Aranzamendi Nieves

Duplicity tells the story of the conflict between one's outward persona and internal voices. Dance, for many, is an opportunity to embrace a voice through movement and share this with others – as a dancer or a member of the audience. The more we can find commonality, the more we can talk, and the greater the chance that the external persona and internal voice can become one and the same.

INTERMISSION

This didn't happen overnight

Choreography by Ryan Ruiz

Music: "Tinikling" by Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company, "Boku no Tomodachi" by MMM with Emerson Kitamura, "Ganz" by Alex Vezo, "Carnival of the Animals, XIII. Le Cygne (the Swan)" by Clara Rockmore

Performed by Colleen Hendricks and Ryan Ruiz

A duet that uses stereotypical ideas/philosophies from various Asian cultures. These oversimplified images/ideas of a whole race come from traditions and possibly traumatic historical events developed over time, not in an instant.

Caprice - Always Ever Amber

Choreography by Deborah Brockus

Music by Greene String Quartet

Performed by Anne Lee Rohovec, Bryan Burns, Rebecca Lee

Caprice is a celebration of nature inspired by the San Jacinto Mountains and how if we look to nature we can find inspiration and the wisdom and strength to carry on and celebrate life.

Thillana

Choreography by Ramya Harishankar

Music by Muralidharan

Performed by Neha Muvvala, Sanchitha Chari, Medha Nair, Swara Kulkarni,
Shrinidhi Sriram, Prangnya Ramkumar

This genre concludes a Bharata Natyam recital and is a joyous exploration and celebration of movement, melody and rhythm. It fulfills our desire to share the beauty and grace of Bharata Natyam with diverse audiences.

When Will We Ever Learn?

Choreography by Margaret Wingrove

Music composed by Pete Seeger, "Where Have All the Flowers Gone", Singer: Olivia Newton-John

Performed by Jeena Dang and Ronja Eilfort

Pete Seeger, a legendary folk singer, songwriter and anti-war activist composed this song in 1955. Now in the year 2023, I am motivated to create this work due to our current and precarious possibility of a world war looming on the horizon. We need to prevent wars and all the atrocities associated with them. Not only are the lives of soldiers killed and wounded in wars a horrible catastrophe, the lives of their loved ones remain forever changed. "When will we ever learn?"

VÖR

Choreography by Charlotte Katherine Smith

Music:

Section 1: Celestial Silence, Composed by Sam Katz and Zac Greenberg

Section 2: Les Petits Plaisirs de la Vieai, Composed by Benjamin Marx

Music edit: Zac Greenberg

Performed by Leslie Duner Alvarez, Elsie Neilson, and Charlotte Katherine

Vör explores the power of the feminine both in strength and softness. This work reminds us to carry gratitude in our femininity and community, and to embrace the capacity of our power, softness, and support as we realize our potential as individuals and as a collective.

Tipping Point

Choreography by Tracy R. Kofford

Music: "Road Signs Variations: One Way" Ezio Bosso

Performed by Charlie Brewer, Vivi Cruz, Odette Finn, Darya Hessami, Anna Jensen, Tara Jevtic,
Fenna Roukema, Summer Terry, Melissa Vargas, Julia Weitzman, Isabella Yarme.

Tipping Point was inspired by how one small change can create a ripple of change and a shift of dynamic in both space and time.

Biographies

Fran Spector Atkins is the Director and Founder of SpectorDance. She has directed venues in NYC, Cleveland, and Monterey and has been a guest artist throughout the United States and abroad. Some of her outstanding experiences include presenting her work at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C, Stanford University, Denmark, Italy, Egypt, England, Israel, the Island of Guam, and Taiwan. Fran has created numerous socially-relevant works and received numerous honors. She was featured in Carmel Magazine for making "altruistic contributions to the community" and in the film *Luminaries of Monterey County*. She has twice presented at TEDx Monterey. SpectorDance was selected by The Arts Council for Monterey County as the *Outstanding Arts Organization in Monterey County* and as a national finalist for the Ovation TV award for *Excellence in the Performing Arts*. In 2020, she received the Florence Haspel Zeve Award for Outstanding Female Artist in Monterey serving Women, Families, and the Arts. Fran founded the Choreographers Showcase in 1997.

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu is a street dance and theatre artist whose work has been presented on stages like the Kennedy Center and Joe's Pub at The Public. He often creates work for concert dance that stages hip-hop and street dance fused with physical theater to create a unique performance experience. He has been working for the past several years as a solo artist creating new work, performing his repertoire, and in stage plays for festivals and shows like the Arts On Site NYC, DANCE NOW New York Festival, TEDxProvidence, Big Sky Summer Theatre Festival, and the Atlanta Spring for Spring Festival. Tsiambwom received his BA in Theatre from Georgia Southern University and his MFA in Theatre from the University of Montana. He taught at Colby College and is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at CSULB.

Danah Bella is an acclaimed choreographer who has performed, presented work, and been an artist in residence at festivals and universities throughout the United States and abroad. She is the artistic director of *d a n a h b e l l a* DanceWorks, a modern dance company focused on reclaiming evocative movement as social practice, and a founding member of Colectivo Caliban, an artist collective that transgresses disciplinary borders through sound and movement. Danah is currently the Founding Chair of the BFA Dance program at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and the Artistic Director of the award-winning Peabody Dance Ensemble. She received the Maryland Dance Education Association's 2021 Dance Educator of the Year Award for Higher Education; she was named one of Baltimore Sun's 25 Women to Watch in 2018; and most recently, was conferred one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year for 2022.

Deborah Brockus has been called a force of nature in LA dance. She is the artistic director of the internationally touring company BrockusRED, an award-winning producer of the Los Angeles Dance Festival and many other dance showcases, and Director of BPStudios which is a space for workshops, intensives, classes, and rehearsals for the community. A master teacher for college, professional, and pre-professional dancers. Both her choreographic and performing career covers both concert and commercial dance with works in Live Stage Performance, Site Specific works, TV, and Film. Ms. Brockus enjoys the freedom of working at the intersection of contemporary/jazz/modern styles.

Ramya Harishankar is the artistic director of the Arpana Dance Company (ADC), a premier school of Bharata Natyam in California, and has taught several hundred students since 1982. Was recently named Legacy artist by the California Arts Council, having previously received Art OC's Helene Modjeska Cultural Legacy award. Her solo performing career of five decades has taken her to India, Asia, Europe, Australia, and N. America. Since 2020, Harishankar has been sharing the intricacies of abhinaya/interpretive dance nationally and internationally both online and in person. She premiered a digital series, *Dance Conversations*, documenting her four-decade journey in the Diaspora through the 'lens & voice' of her mentors, colleagues, and collaborators. Short 'dance films' *Bhumika* & *Aasha* have been critically acclaimed. ADC has performed in the US, Europe, India, and Japan in aid of charities. ADC/Harishankar are recipients of prestigious grants from California Arts Council, Alliance for California Traditional Arts and she is a 2-time NEA's Choreographic Fellow.

Tracy R. Kofford holds a BFA in Dance from the University of California of Santa Barbara and a MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. Tracy has performed and choreographed nationally and internationally with his own work and Jennifer Muller/The Works, who he danced with for over 10 years in NYC. He has studied and worked with some of the world's most influential choreographers, performers, and dance companies. He also performed with Disney Cruise lines, featured as Tarzan. Mr. Kofford was featured in photographer Lois Greenfield: Still Moving. He has received numerous honors including the McCallum Choreography Award in 2016, ACDA Gala recognition, and the Audience Choice award at the Red Rock Dance Festival. His choreography has been presented at Lincoln Center in NYC, Switzerland, and has toured nationally and internationally. He is currently the Director of Dance at Santa Barbara City College and the Artistic Director of SBCC Dance Company.

Stephanie Mizrahi is a Los Angeles-based performer, choreographer, and educator. Her creations seek to bring awareness and a sense of commonality to the human experience, often with a focus on historical perspectives. She received her dance training from Yuri Grigoriev School of Ballet and Debbie Allen Dance Academy, both in LA, before moving to New York to attend the Ailey/Fordham BFA. She graduated in 2020 with a dual major in Dance and History. After returning to LA, Stephanie performed extensively for BrockusRED Dance Company and is in her second season with Psychopomp Dance Theater. Stephanie's choreography has been presented throughout the Los Angeles area, most notably Orange County Dance Festival and Mashup's International Women's Day Showcase. Her work has also been shown in New York City and Atlanta. When Stephanie isn't performing and choreographing, she teaches dance at West LA Academy of Dance and Pilates at Equinox.

Ryan Ruiz is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Sacramento, CA. He received his BFA in Dance Theatre at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Ryan is a company member of Diavolo: Architecture in Motion. He has worked within the commercial industry dancing/choreographing for artists such as Diplomacy, Jeff Waters, and Loud Forest as well as competing as a choreographer on Choreo Cage Fight hosted by Tinashe. He has also had the honor to perform works nationally and internationally for many Directors/Choreographers/Companies such as L.A. Contemporary Dance Company, Daniel Ezralow, French choreographer Radhouane El Meddeb, Micaela Taylor, Gregory Dolbashian, Whyteberg, Genevieve Carson, and Acts of Matter. He has his own throw pillow business called Tapered Nomad. Ryan is also a certified indoor cycling instructor and personal trainer.

Charlotte Katherine Smith is a LA and NYC-based choreographer, dance artist, award-winning filmmaker, and arts educator. She is the Artistic Director of Charlotte Katherine & Co. Her work addresses human physical and emotional experiences through multidisciplinary collaborations - her live theatrical and digital creations have been presented nationally and internationally, most notably at the Seoul International Dance Festival in TANK, Korea, the Ford Amphitheater (Los Angeles), and Los Angeles Dance Festival. Her accomplishments include commissions, international collaborations, and awards, including Luckman Director's Pick of the Festival at LA Dance Festival 2020. She attended the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance and graduated Cum Laude from Cornish College of the Arts with a BFA in dance.

Meredith Ventura is a multi-creative artist based out of Southern California with a B.F.A. and M.A. in Dance from UC Santa Barbara where she received numerous university awards. Ms. Ventura received her M.F.A. in dance at Hollins University and is now pursuing Ph.D. in Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at UC Santa Barbara. As the founder and artistic director of Selah Dance Collective, Ms. Ventura has produced full evening-length performances and presented works throughout the United States and abroad, most recently in France, Estonia, Norway, Finland, and Italy. Ms. Ventura is currently on faculty at dance studios throughout the Southern California area and travels nationally and internationally as a dance educator and advocate for the arts. In addition to her creative work, Ms. Ventura also is the director of State Street Ballet's Professional Track training program

Margaret Wingrove is the Founder and Artistic Director of Margaret Wingrove Dance Company (MWDC), and guest choreographer for companies such as Palo Alto Ballet, Berkeley Ballet, sjDANCEco, San Jose Taiko, Opera San Jose, and the Symphony Silicon Valley. She holds a BFA in Dance from San Jose State University, and an MFA from the University of San Francisco, and performed and studied extensively on both the east and west coasts. Her works have been presented at Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts, David Howard Showcase in NYC, San Francisco Dance Festival at Herbst Theatre, and seven of her original works have been performed across England. In 1993, Wingrove received the Women of Achievement Award for the Arts, and in 1998 was honored by SJSU's School of Music and Dance for her contributions to the Field of Dance. She was the recipient of the Silicon Valley Creates Fellowship Award for Choreography. In 2016, Wingrove celebrated 35 years as Artistic Director of MWDC and, to date, has created over 140 original works.

Allen Chunhui Xing is a dancer and choreographer based in Baltimore. He holds a BFA in Dance from the Shanxi Academy of Arts, an M.Ed. from Salisbury University, and an MFA in Dance from the University of Maryland. He currently is the Artistic Director of Xing Dance Theater and City Dance Festival. He is a former member of the Huajin Dance Drama Ensemble (China) and performed in the production Forbidden Fruit Under the Great Wall which toured internationally from 2007-2011. His work has been invited and selected to perform nationally and internationally including at the Dance Gallery Festival NYC, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Beijing Dance Festival, and many more! Xing is both the 2020 Baltimore and Maryland State Independent Artist Award awardee, 2021 Baker Artist Award recipient, and 2021 Russian Season School Government Choreography Grant recipient.

Credits

Artistic Director and Founder Fran Spector Atkins

Assistants to the Artistic Director Amy Byington, Charlotte Katherine Smith

Administrators Paige Amicon, Amy Byington, Charlotte Katherine Smith

Marketing and Communication Paige Amicon, Amy Byington, Charlotte Katherine Smith

Sound David Herring

Video William Roden/New Dawn Studios

Hosts Kathleen Baer, Sheri Benham, Jonathan Lipow, Roger and Linda Thompson

Thank you to the Choreographers' Showcase Steering Committee and the SpectorDance Board of Directors! Amy Byington, Lucia Coppola, Shany Dagan, Connie Dennault, Tracy Kofford, Jonathan Lipow, Charlotte Katherine Smith, Roger Stewart, Allen Xing

Thank you to the Outdoor Forest Theater for all their support and to all the choreographers and dancers for sharing their beautiful work with all of us!

Thank You to our Major Sponsors!

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SpectorDance is honored to be part of Monterey County Gives, the end-of-year fundraising campaign that supports our local non-profit sector. From November 9 to December 31, 2023. A percentage of every donation will be matched. So, please consider supporting SpectorDance and the Choreographers' Showcase with donation, large or small. This is the time to maximize your gift.

